

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 are presently active; Claims 1 and 9 have been presently amended, Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice, and Claim 16 has been presently added.¹ These changes are made in response to discussions with Examiner Cherry regarding this case.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 4-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Shiraishi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,838,479) in view of Wang et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,292,285). Claim 3 was indicated as being allowable.

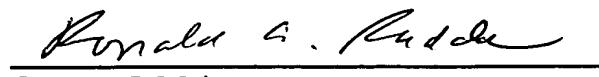
Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowance for Claim 3. In order to expedite allowance of this case, the remaining claims presently active depend from Claim 3, and thus are also allowable.

¹ New Claim 16 replaces canceled Claim 12 and does not represent new matter or a new issue for this case.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Ronald A. Rudder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,618

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
GJM:RAR:clh

I:\ATTY\RAR\AMENDMENTS\246830US\SUPPLEMENTAL-AM-FNL.DOC